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Higher Education Funding Council for England

JISC Conference 2007

**‘Sustaining excellence in higher
education ’**

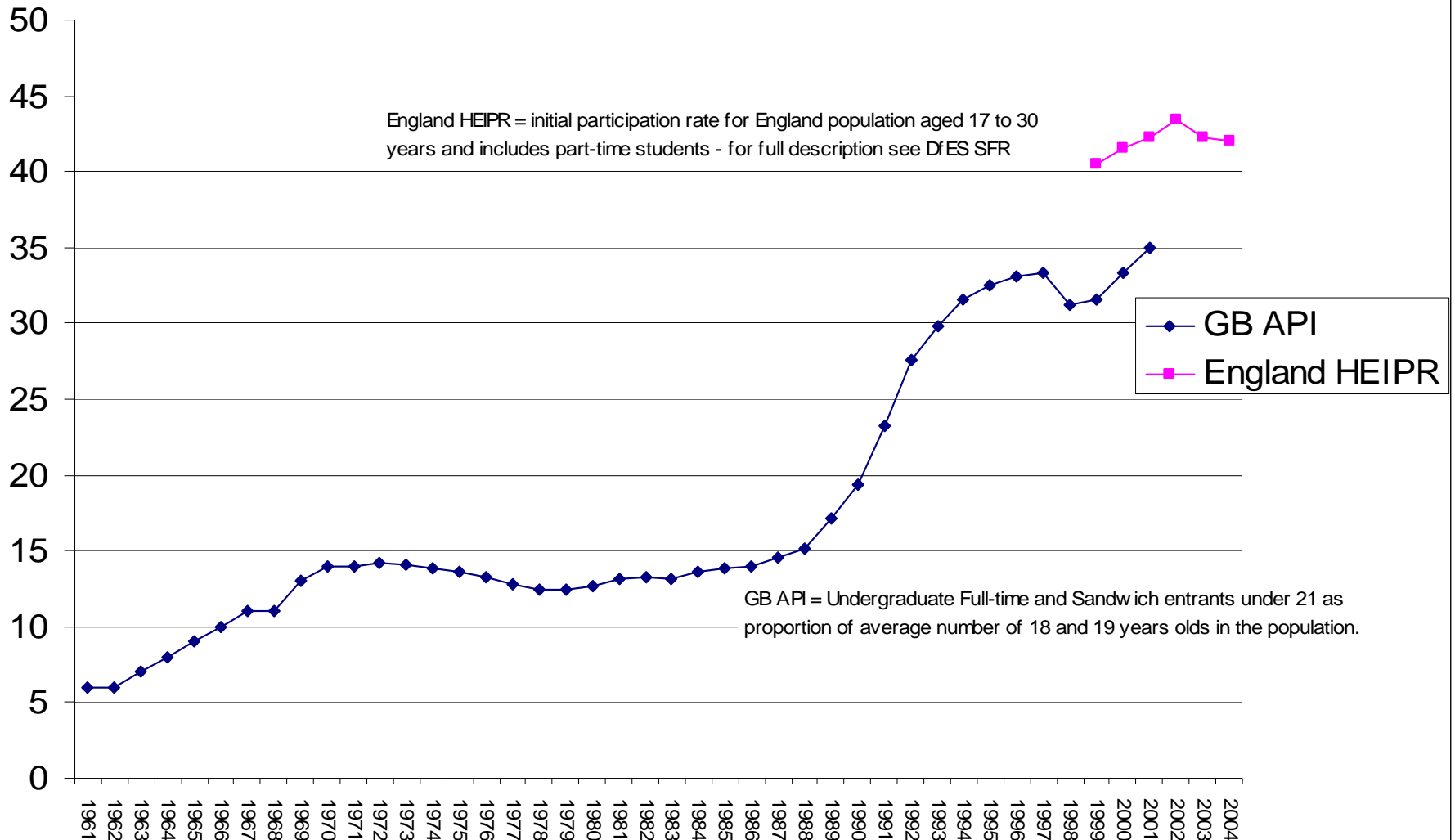
13 March 2007

A transformed higher
education sector...

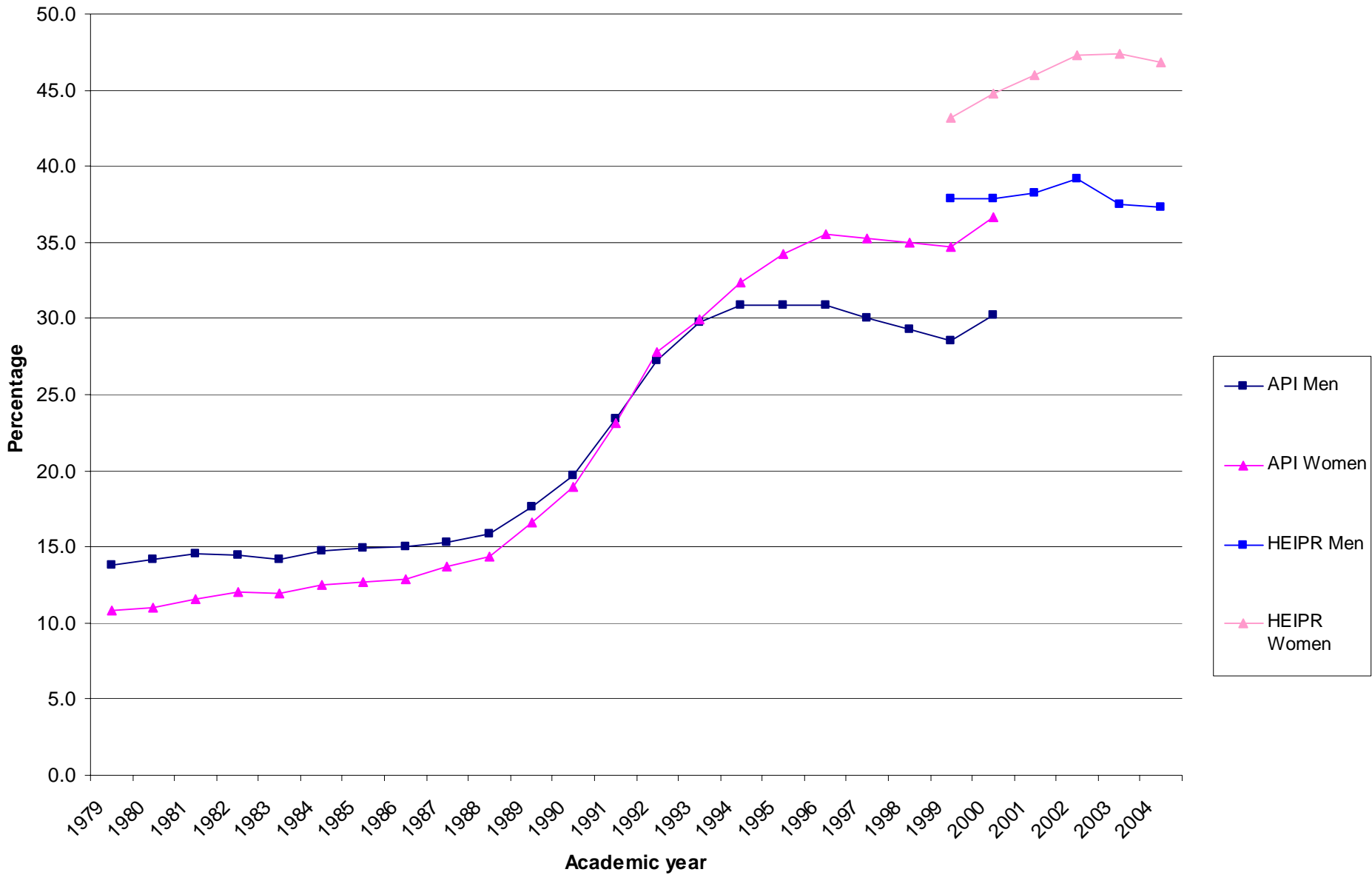
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Age participation

Participation in Higher Education



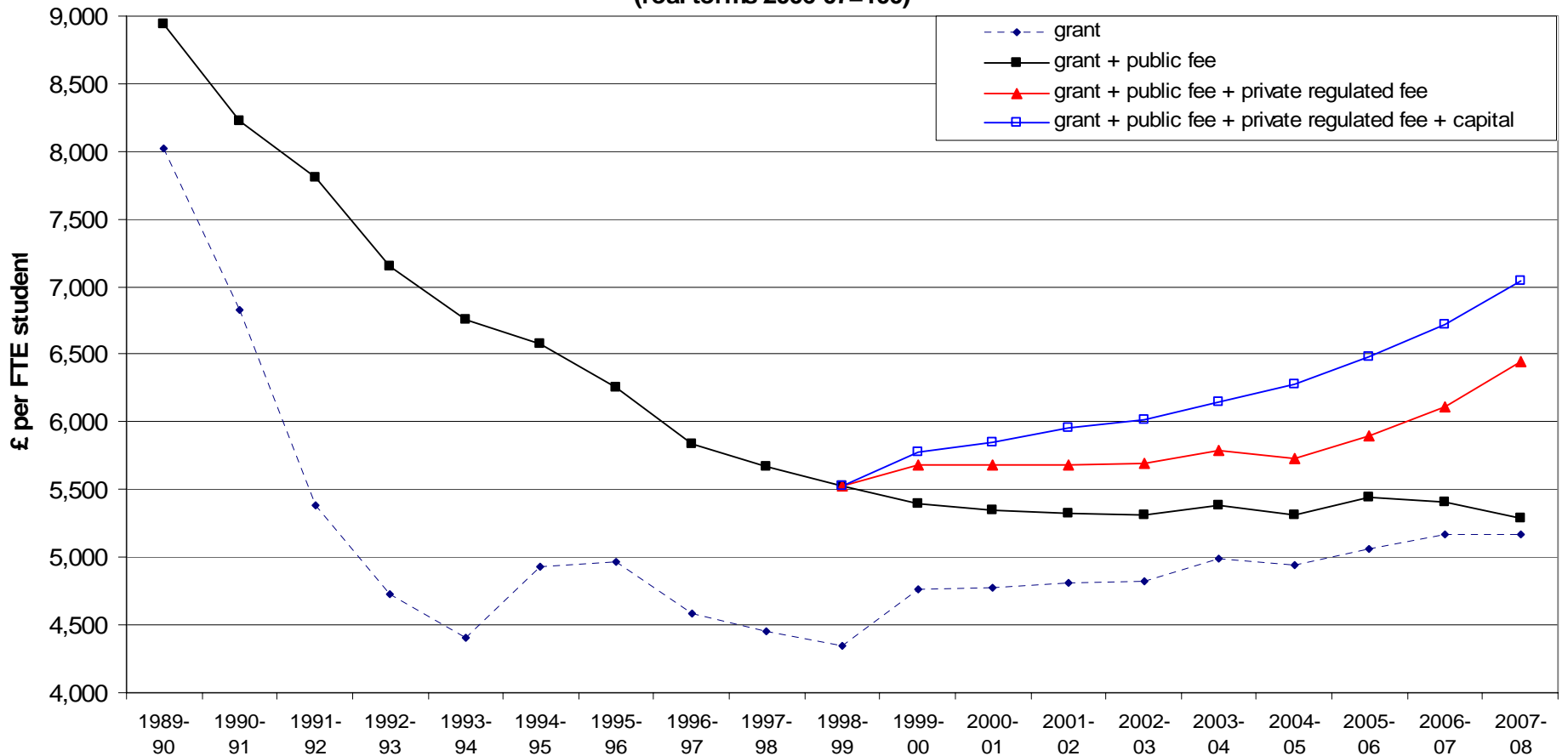
Participation rates by gender



DfES funding

DfES publicly planned unit of funding

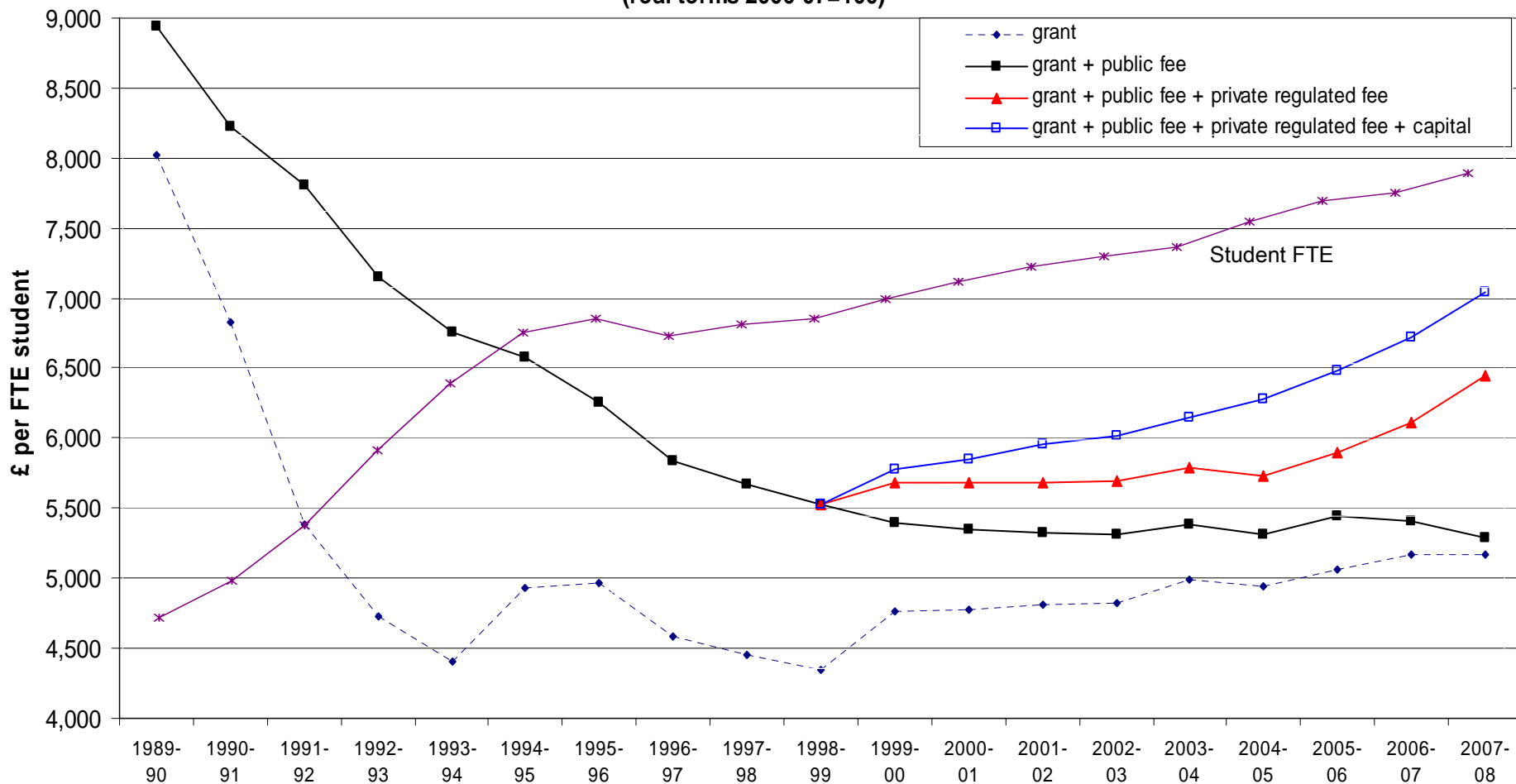
(real terms 2006-07=100)



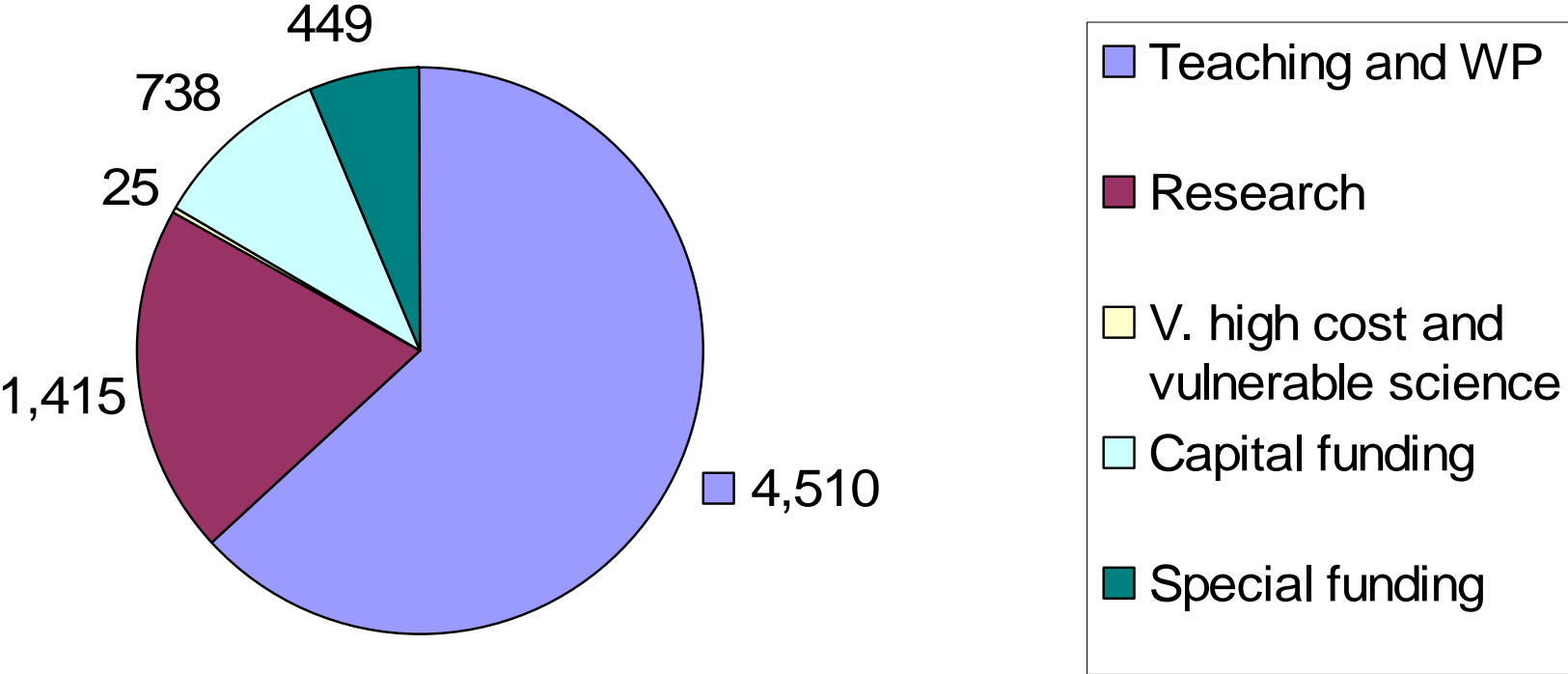
DfES funding and students

DfES publicly planned unit of funding

(real terms 2006-07=100)



Main components of HEFCE grant in 2007-08 (£ millions)



Total grants

- £7,137 million available for 2007-08
- Overall cash increase of 6.4%
- None of the increases are due to introduction of variable fees.

Funding increases

- Available teaching grant up 7.2%, mainly due to additional student numbers
- Research grant up 5.4%
- Earmarked capital up 4.8%
- Special funding up 3.9%
 - Declining proportion of our total budget.

Key priorities

- Progress towards 50% (the HEIPR)
- Leitch (29 - 40% higher level skills)
- Delivering high quality mass higher education
- RAE 2008
- Research assessment beyond 2008
- The growing importance of the 3rd stream agenda

HEFCE Strategy and Funding

Strategy:

- Excellence in teaching
- Widening participation and lifelong learning
- Maintaining a world class research base
- Strengthening HE's contribution to economic growth and social inclusion

Funding:

- Block grant to HEIs for teaching and research
- Special funding for research libraries and JISC



Drivers for change

- Increasingly diverse student body: non traditional entrants, lifelong learning, new modes of study
- A more demanding student body: students as fee paying customers
- New research approaches and an expanding information base
- The internet and IT enabled tools
- Cost and funding pressures

New Student Cultures, New Patterns of Learning

- What is a university when there is universal access to 'knowledge'?
- Rethinking the role of the university
- Technologies and pedagogies for the new learning
- How do students learn in the information age?
- Reinventing the university as a site for understanding and interpreting the world

What is happening now? (1)

The Library

- Some things do not change: librarians will continue to play a central role
- The “hybrid library”: doing more with the same resources
- From books to terminals to information management



What is happening now? (2)

Teaching and learning:

- Students expect immediate access to a range of materials
- Supporting students as independent learners



Research:

- Scholarly communications
- Immediate access to everything - and archiving and data storage
- Delivery to the desktop
- Finding and sifting online information
- Ordering research information



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Developing a new
framework for the
assessment and funding
of research

hefce

The new framework

The Secretary of State has asked HEFCE to develop the new framework – working with the other funding bodies. Our key aims will be:

- To produce robust indicators of research quality that are internationally meaningful
- To reduce substantially the burden associated with the RAE
- To rely as far as possible on quantitative indicators
- To accommodate disciplinary differences within a common framework



What about RAE 2008?

RAE 2008 will go ahead as planned and is crucial:

- To provide a baseline for the new system
- To update quality assessments unchanged since 2001 and to underscore the UK's international reputation
- To inform funding from 2008 until 2014 while the new system is phased in

Beyond 2008: quality indicators

In consultation with the sector, we will need to develop new UK-wide indicators of research quality that:

- Are robust and transparent
- Are meaningful for both funding and benchmarking purposes
- Give due credit to user-valued research
- Accommodate interdisciplinary research
- Take account of equal opportunities and early career researchers

Meeting the Shared Services Challenge

- JISC as a model?
- Sustain JISC and the network
- Anticipating the future and understanding affordability
- Beyond JISC (or not): getting value out of interoperability; or do we need new standards and generic systems?

Envisioning the University of the Twenty-first Century

- What does it look like?
- When is a university virtual and when is it real?
- From the chapel to the library to...what?